

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02818 151013Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 HA-05 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /147 W
-----103427 151247Z /46

R 150905Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2818

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG MO XF
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS:
MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST
ISSUE AT DAKAR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: A. DAKAR 3306 AND PREVIOUS, B. STATE 101243

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS MOHAMED SAADANI
COMMENTED MAY 11 ON TREATMENT OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUE AT
LAST MONT'S ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN
DAKAR, WHICH HE ATTENDED. SAADANI HAD BEEN PARTICU-
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LARLY STRUCK WITH "MILDNESS" OF WHAT HE TERMED THE
"SYRIAN RESOLUTION" ON MIDDLE EAST. HE CHARACTERIZED
RESOLUTION AS CONTAINING IMPLICIT SUPPORT FOR ANY
PROMISING PEACE EFFORTS IF IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAST
POSITIONS ADOPTED AT ALGIERS AND RABAT SUMITS.
EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN OVERLY
SENSITIVE, IN SAADANI'S VIEW. EGYPT HAD NOT BEEN

SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED IN THE RESOLUTION, AND EGYPTIAN'S REPEATED INTERVENTIONS HAD UNNECESSARILY FOCUSSED ATTENTION ON EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITIES.

2. MOROCCO, SAADANI CONTINUED, HAD BASICALLY FOLLOWED SAUDI LEAD IN FAVOR OF MODERATION. HAD RESERVATIONS TO MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION BEEN INTRODUCED BY SAUDIS, MOROCCANS WOULD HAVE SECONDED THEM. WHILE PLO HAD BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, IN SAADANI'S OPINION, LIBYA HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HARSH REGARDING EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVES. IN REPLY TO EMBOFF'S STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING MOROCCAN AND OTHER MODERATE SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S PEACE EFFORTS, SAADANI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SADAT WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO PURSUE THEM. GOM, HE SAID, WAS CONCERNED AT PROSPECT OF RISING DISAPPOINTMENT WITHIN EGYPT, COUPLED WITH EXTERNAL CRITICISMS, AS VOICED BY EXTREMISTS AT DAKAR MEETING. IN CONCLUSION, SAADANI UNDERLINED THAT RECENT HARD-LINE ISRAELI DECLARATIONS OFFERED ARABS LITTLE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM REGARDING ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF SADAT'S INITIATIVES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT02818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0140
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780558/aaaabxhn.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0801c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAKAR 3306, 78 STATE 101243
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2688829
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUE AT DAKAR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, SOPN, MO, XF, (SAADANI, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0801c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014